Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT O 00976 291959Z ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 COME-00 /029 W

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R 291930Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2215

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0976

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, BGEN, TD

SUBJECT: U.S. TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. LOCAL FIRMS HAVE REPORTED SOME DIFFICULTY IN DELIVERY OF TELEGRAMS TO ADDRESSES IN THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW YORK AREA. FURTHERMORE, THEY INDICATE THAT THEY ARE NOW BEING CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR SERVICE MESSAGES.
- 2. LOCAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE (TEXTEL) ASSERTS PROBLEM IS NOT AT THIS END, BUT LIES IN FAILURE OF WESTERN UNION TO COMPLETE LOCAL DELIVERY WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. EMBASSY DOES NOT, HOWEVER, RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT MESSAGES ARE NOT BEING PROPERLY TRANSMITTED.
- 3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN ASCERTAINING WHETHER WESTERN UNION HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN DELIVERY OF CABLES, AND SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT IF ANYTHING FIRMS IN THIS COUNTRY MIGHT DO TO ENSURE DELIVERY OF THEIR MESSAGES. RELIABILITY OF CABLE TRAFFIC IS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL HERE BECAUSE OF POOR MAIL SERVICE UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN MADE WORSE BY A STRIKE AT THE STATE-OWNED AIRLINE.

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TAGS: ETEL, BGEN, TD, US

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